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J Green  
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February

, 2003

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of  M. Keith Sharp  Application No.: 09/973,477  Filed: October 6, 2001  For: HYPODERMIC NEEDLE	Examiner: M. DeSanto  Group Art Unit: 3763
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Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

**AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION**

Sir:

In response to the Official Action of October 25, 2002, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in light of the following amendments and remarks.

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Once Amended) A hypodermic needle, comprising:

a hollow tube having an angled end with respect to a longitudinal axis of the tube, the end having an opening surrounded by an external peripheral rim,